

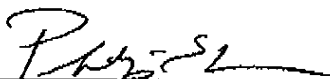
REMARKS

In a telephone conversation occurring on December 3, 2003, the Examiner indicated that pending claims 25-29, 31-35 and 39-44 were allowable (claims 1-13 were previously indicated as being allowable). By the present Amendment, Applicants represent previously withdrawn claims 36-38 and 45-47 (those claims were previously withdrawn in response to the Examiner's requirement to elect a species). Such claims are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on one or more allowed claims. Applicants also by the present Amendment cancels claims 14-24 and 48-71, which claims were previously withdrawn in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13, 25-29 and 31-47 are in condition for allowance.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

METZ LEWIS LLC

By 
Philip E. Levy
Metz Lewis LLC
11 Stanwix Street, 18th Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
Attorneys for Applicant

(412) 918-1100